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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

BACKGROUND NOISE/SPEECH CLASSIFICATION METHOD,

VOICED/UNVOICED CLASSIFICATION METHOD AND BACKGROUND

NOISE DECODING METHOD, AND SPEECH ENCODING METHOD AND

APPARATUS

This application is a DIV of 09/126,562 12/01/2000 PAT 6,104,702, which is DIV of
09/012,762 01/23/1998 PAT 6,021,764

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a background noise/speech classification method of deciding whether an input signal belongs to a background noise period or a speech period, in encoding/decoding the speech signal, a voiced/unvoiced classification method of deciding whether an input signal belongs to a voiced period or an unvoiced period, a background noise decoding method of obtaining comfort background noise by decoding.

The present invention relates to a speech encoding method of compression-encoding a speech signal and a speech encoding apparatus, particularly including processing of obtaining a pitch period in encoding the speech signal.

High-efficiency, low-bit-rate encoding for speech signals is an important technique for an increase in channel capacity and a reduction in communication cost in mobile telephone communications and local communications. A speech signal can be divided into a

background noise period in which no speech is present and a speech period in which speech is present. A speech period is a significant period for speech

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